

The Independent.

Edwin A. Rayner

VOL. I. NO. 29.

BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1891.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

LIVELY MEETING.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GRADE MAPS REFERRED BACK.

Committee to Draw Up Specifications to Advertise for Bids—Other Matters Before the Township Committee.

Second Ward was not represented.

Chairman Gilbert called the Township Committee to order last Monday.

but Messrs. Cockefair and

and made their appearance shortly

the minutes of the previous meet-

ing.

Mr. Rudd was the only

one of the Committee absent.

presence of the Township Counsel,

and with the fact that the awarding

contract for making grade maps

surveys was to be settled that night,

and many to think that it would be

by meeting, and by the time that

it was reached the room was well

filled from the residents of Maolini

asking for a gas lamp at the

corner of that avenue and Midland Ave-

was referred to the Gas Committee.

Halfpenny, Chairman of the Side-

Committee, said he had received a

letter from Mrs. Meyers, who owns

on the corner of Hillside Ave-

ad Clark Street, in front of which

had been laid.

Mrs. Meyers' letter, refused to pay the assess-

ment for laying the walk, claiming that

measurement was incorrect.

Un-

the Committee ordered otherwise.

Halfpenny stated that he would

the walk taken up, after giving

Meyers a reasonable time in which

the assessment. He said the

ment was correct.

application for stone gutters on

Gowen Street from Messrs. Stiles

McGowan was referred to the Road

Committee.

Seibert, the Township Treasurer,

had been rumored that the Com-

mittee were exceeding the appropria-

tion, and he would give a comparative

ment with that of last year. The

amount paid out up to date this

was \$31,753.97, against \$30,681.75

the same time last year. The cash

paid this year was \$3,800, against

last year. Thus it will be seen

while the amount paid out this

exceeds that of 1890 by a little

than \$1,000 the receipts have been

than \$3,000 greater. Mr. Seibert

said that he was ready at any

time to give any information desired on

subject.

Committee on Grade Maps and

ays reported that they had com-

ited with Gen. Newton and others

from whom they had been referred by E. D.

the lowest bidder for this con-

tract and had received answers com-

ing his ability very highly.

Halfpenny moved that the report

Committee be received and that

Johnson be employed to do this

and that the Township Counsel be

called to draw up a contract.

Rayner moved as a substitute

he matter be referred back to the

Committee with instructions to prepare

leations and to advertise for bids

is work.

Halfpenny thought the matter had

delayed long enough.

Rayner said it had been the cus-

omewhere to advertise for bids for

involving an expenditure of a large

of money; that the public be in-

to bid, and that the bids should

be placed upon his tax-bill.

Mr. Cockefair remarked that he need

not worry, the people wanted stone

roads more than they did a map.

Mr. Wilde said he knew nothing about

jacks-in-the-box, and he did not think

much of people who talked about them.

He thought the field-notes should be

the property of the town; that the

twenty miles should be thoroughly done,

so that the next man need not do the

work over again. With Mr. McComb's

field-notes a great deal of the work need

not be done over again, as it was

thorough. But the matter that brought

him before the Committee was to request

that a grade be established on Herman

Street, running from West Belleville

Avenue to Bloomfield Avenue. The

street had been dedicated to and ac-

cepted by the Town Committee in 1874.

The matter was referred.

Mr. Gilbert remarked that he was

surprised that the Town Counsel should

recommend to give a contract without

specifications.

The Township Counsel denied that

this was so; he would have them ironed.

Mr. Olmsted, who was present, said

that he had not been asked to bid on

anything definite. The Committee told

him that they were not familiar with

that work, and asked him if he would

put in writing what he thought should

be done. He did so, and supposed the

same request had been made of the

other gentlemen. His bid was based on

his letter, which stated exactly what he

was to do. He expected that the sub-

committee would base the bid on what

he had written. He was surprised to

learn that his letter had not been read

in connection with his bid.

Chairman Gilbert, taking the floor,

said that Mr. Johnson's bid was dated

in May. Olmsted's in June, and Owen's

in July. If all the estimates were in

why did not the Committee report be-

fore? If they received letters from

experts why did not they let the

subject. He said it was not alone the funeral of Rudd and Seibert. If it was, the taxpayers would have to pay for the obsequies.

The Chairman ruled that no citizen could speak while the motion was pending.

Mr. Rayner said that a sub-committee was not held responsible for work done, but the full Committee were responsible, unless an individual member had voted against it.

A call for the question resulted in the adoption of Mr. Rayner's substitute by the following vote:

For—Cockefair, Rayner, Hummel, and Gilbert.

Against—Seibert and Halfpenny.

Mr. Cockefair said he would like to hear Mr. Wilde's views on this subject.

Mr. Halfpenny moved that any citizen be allowed to speak on the matter, which was agreed to.

Mr. Wilde said he had not come to the meeting to talk on the subject of grade maps; he did not know the subject was to be brought up, but as he was present he had been greatly interested. He said the survey of East Orange had been very satisfactory. He had been told by Joseph L. Mann, who drew the specifications, that the map had already saved the township more than its cost—over \$14,000. A great deal had been said about the \$2,500 map. Mr. Beach, who was in the Committee at the time that map was begun, had the right idea on this subject. He was in possession of the field notes made by Mr. McComb in connection with this \$2,500 map. He would give them to any competent man doing this work, and they would doubtless prove valuable. He did not know who the bidders were, neither did he know Mr. Johnson, but it was absurd to propose to survey this town without specifications. He was opposed to large expenditures, but he believed that when a thing was to be done, it should be done right. East Orange saved more than the cost of the survey years ago by having it done right. All he would say was that no contract should be signed unless they had specifications like East Orange.

Dr. Harry E. Richard said he did not come to say anything—no one ever did—but there had been no intention to make a survey like that of East Orange. This \$2,500 was to survey about twenty miles of streets. Great pressure had been brought to bear at the Town Meeting to make an appropriation for a grade map. He was afraid that if this appropriation had not been made the people would not have made any appropriation for stone road construction.

Last year's Committee had employed engineers who wrote very agreeable newspaper articles, saying that the maps and survey could be made for \$10,000 or \$12,000. He had been told that twenty miles of streets could be surveyed for \$2,000, and that was what the Town Meeting wanted. He said he did not know where it originated, but some people had an idea that there was a jack-in-the-box in this affair. He doubted if the tax-payers would pass a \$15,000 appropriation, but if they should pass it he was willing that his share should be placed upon his tax-bill.

Mr. Cockefair remarked that he need not worry, the people wanted stone roads more than they did a map.

Mr. Wilde said he knew nothing about jacks-in-the-box, and he did not think much of people who talked about them.

He thought the field-notes should be the property of the town; that the twenty miles should be thoroughly done, so that the next man need not do the work over again. With Mr. McComb's field-notes a great deal of the work need not be done over again, as it was thorough. But the matter that brought him before the Committee was to request that a grade be established on Herman Street, running from West Belleville Avenue to Bloomfield Avenue. The street had been dedicated to and accepted by the Town Committee in 1874.

The matter was referred.

Mr. Gilbert remarked that he was surprised that the Town Counsel should recommend to give a contract without specifications.

The Township Counsel denied that this was so; he would have them ironed.

Mr. Olmsted, who was present, said that he had not been asked to bid on anything definite. The Committee told him that they were not familiar with that work, and asked him if he would put in writing what he thought should be done. He did so, and supposed the same request had been made of the other gentlemen. His bid was based on his letter, which stated exactly what he was to do. He expected that the sub-committee would base the bid on what he had written. He was surprised to learn that his letter had not been read in connection with his bid.

Chairman Gilbert, taking the floor, said that Mr. Johnson's bid was dated in May. Olmsted's in June, and Owen's in July. If all the estimates were in why did not the Committee report before? If they received letters from experts why did not they let the

SHALL BLOOMFIELD JOIN

ORANGE WOULD ASSUME ABSOLUTE CONTROL OF THE TRUNK-LINE.

Prospects of Law Suits—Belleville and Jersey City Would Oppose Emptying the Sewage in the Passaic River.

Chas. W. Halfpenny of the Committee on Sewerage reported to the Township Committee last Monday night that he had expected a final report from the engineers, but had received none. The citizens of East Orange had held a meeting, and were undecided whether to enter into this project, owing to the opposition which would be met with in attempting to run the sewer through the township of Belleville.

Another serious objection to the townships joining in this scheme was the fact that the city of Orange would assume absolute control of the trunk-line, while the townships would simply pay their share of the expense and have the privilege of using the sewer.

It has been suggested by men in East Orange to appoint a commission to construct the sewer, and to give the townships a majority vote in it.